Numb. DLII.

The SPECTATOR.

Quid dignum tanto ferat hic promissor hiatu? Hor.

Thursday, December 4. 1712.

THE Project which I published on *Monday* last, has brought me in several Packets of Letters. Among the rest I have received one from a certain Projecter, wherein after having represented, that in all probability the Solemnity of *opening my Mouth* will draw together a great Confluence of Beholders, he proposes to me the hiring of *Stationer's-Hall* for the more convenient exhibiting of that Publick Ceremony. He undertakes to be at the Charge of it himself, provided he may have the erecting of Galleries on every side, and the letting of them out upon that Occasion. I have a Letter also from a Bookseller, petitioning me in a very humble manner, that he may have the Printing of the Speech which I shall make to the Assembly upon the first opening of my Mouth. I am informed from all Parts, that there are great Contestings in the several Clubs about Town, upon the chusing of a proper Person to sit with me on those arduous Affairs to which I have summoned them. Three Clubs have already proceeded to Election, whereof one has made a double Return. If I find that my Enemies shall take Advantage of my Silence to begin Hostilities upon me, or if any other Exigency of Affairs may so require, since I see Elections in so great a forwardness, we may possibly meet before the Day appointed; or if Matters go on to my Satisfaction, I may perhaps put off the Meeting to a further Day; but of this Publick Notice shall be given.

In the mean time, I must confess that I am not a little gratified and obliged by that Concern which appears in this great City, upon my present Design of laying down this Paper. It is likewise with much Satisfaction, that I find some of the most outlying Parts of the Kingdom alarmed upon this Occasion, having receiv'd Letters to expostulate with me about it, from several of my Readers of the remotest Boroughs of *Great Britain*. Among these I am very well pleased with a Letter dated from *Berwick upon Tweed*, wherein my Correspondent compares the Office which I have for some time executed in these Realms, to the Weeding of a great Garden; which, says he, it is not sufficient to weed once for all, and afterwards to give over, but that the Work must be continued daily, or the same Spots of Ground which are cleared for a while, will in a little time be over-run as much as ever. Another Gentleman lays before me several Enormities that are already sprouting, and which he believes will discover themselves in their full growth immediately after my Disappearance. There is no doubt, says he, but the Ladies Heads will shoot up as soon as they know they are no longer under the *Spectator*'s Eye; and I have already seen such monstrous broad-brimm'd Hats under the Arms of Foreigners, that I question not but they will overshade the Island within a Month or two after the dropping of your Paper. But among all the Letters which are come to my Hands, there is none so handsomely written as the following one, which I am the more pleased with, as it is sent me from Gentlemen who belong to a Body which I shall always Honour, and where (I cannot speak it without a secret Pride) my Speculations have met with a very kind Reception. It is usual for Poets upon the Publishing of their Works, to Print before them such Copies of Verses as have been made in their Praise. Not that you must imagine they are pleased with their own Commendations, but because the elegant Compositions of their Friends ought not to be lost. I must make the same Apology for the Publication of the following Letter, in which I have suppress'd no part of those Praises that are given my Speculations with too lavish and good-natured an Hand, though

though my Correſpondents can witneſs for me, that at other times I have generally blotted out thoſe Parts in the Letters which I have receiv'd from them.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *Oxford, Nov.* 25.

'IN ſpight of your Invincible Silence you have found out a Method of being the moſt agreeable Companion in the World: That kind of Converſation which you hold with the Town, has the good Fortune of being always pleaſing to the Men of Taſte and Leiſure, and never offenſive to thoſe of Hurry and Buſineſs. You are never heard, but at what *Horace* calls *dextro tempore*, and have the Happineſs to obſerve the Politick Rule, which the ſame diſcerning Author gave his Friend, when he enjoyn'd him to deliver his Book to *Auguſtus*.

Si validus, ſi lætus erit, ſi denique poſcet.

'You never begin to talk, but when People are deſirous to hear you; and I defie any one to be out of Humour till you leave off. But I am led unawares into Reflections, foreign to the Original Deſign of this Epiſtle; which was to let you know, that ſome unfeigned Admirers of your inimitable Papers, who could, without any Flattery, greet you with the Salutation uſed to the Eaſtern Monarchs, viz. O *Spec. live for ever*, have lately been under the ſame Apprehenſions with Mr. *Philo-Spec*; that the haſte you have made to diſpatch your beſt Friends, portends no long Duration to your own ſhort Viſage. We could not, indeed, find any juſt Grounds for Complaint in the Method you took to diſſolve that venerable Body; No, the World was not worthy of your Divine. *Will Honeycomb* could not, with any Reputation, live ſingle any longer. It was high time for the *Templar* to turn himſelf to *Cook*. And Sir *Roger*'s dying was the wiſeſt thing he ever did in his Life. It was, however, Matter of great Grief to us, to think that we were in danger of loſing ſo Elegant and Valuable an Entertainment. And we could not, without Sorrow, reflect that we were likely to have nothing to interrupt our Sips in a Morning, and to ſuſpend our Coffee in mid-air, between our Lips and right Ear, but the ordinary Trash of News-papers. We reſolved, therefore, not to part with you ſo. But ſince, to make uſe of your own Alluſion, the Cherries began now to crowd the Market, and their Seaſon was almoſt over, we conſulted our future Enjoyments, and endeavoured to make the exquiſite Pleaſure that delicious Fruit gave our Taſte as laſting as we could, and by drying them protract their Stay beyond its natural Date. We own that thus they have not a Flavour equal to that of their juicy Bloom; but yet, under this Diſadvantage, they pique the Palate, and become a Salver better than any other Fruit at its firſt Appearance. To ſpeak plain, there are a number of us who have begun your Works afreſh, and meet two Nights in the Week in order to give you a Rehearing. We never come together without drinking your Health, and as ſeldom part without general Expreſſions of Thanks to you for our Night's Improvement. This we conceive to be a more uſeful Inſtitution that any other Club whatever, not excepting even that of *Ugly Faces*. We have one manifeſt Advantage over that renowned Society, with reſpect to Mr. *Spectator*'s Company. For though they may brag that you ſometimes make your perſonal Appearance amongſt them, it is impoſſible they ſhould ever get a Word from you. Whereas you are with us the Reverſe of what *Phædria* would have his Miſtreſs be in his Rival's Company, *Preſent in your Abſence*. We make you talk as much and as long as we pleaſe, and let me tell you, you ſeldom hold your Tongue for the whole Evening. I promiſe my ſelf you will look with an Eye of Favour upon a Meeting which owes its Original to a mutual Emulation among its Members, who ſhall ſhew the moſt profound Reſpect for your Paper; not but we have a very great Value for your Perſon; and I dare ſay you can no where find four more ſincere Admirers, and humble Servants, than

TF. GS. JT. ET.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Sixth Day.

For the Benefit of the Author.

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Thurſday being the 4th Day of December, will be preſented a new Tragedy call'd The Heroick Daughter. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

Never Perform'd but Thrice.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, on Saturday next, being the 6th Day of December, will be preſented a new Opera call'd The Faithful Shepherd. Compos'd by Mr. Handel. The Parts to be performed by Signior Cavaliero Valeriano Pellegrini, Signor Valentino Urbani, Signiora Pilotti Schiavoneti, Signiora Margaretta de l'Epine, Mrs. Barbier and Mr. Leveridge. Boxes 8 s. Pit 5 s. Gallery 2 s. 6 d. Boxes upon the Stage Half a Guinea. To begin exactly at Six a Clock. No Perſon to ſtand upon the Stage.

AN Entertainment by Mr. CLINCH of Barnet, who imitates the Flute, Double Curtel, the Organ with 3 Voices, the Horn, Huntſman and Pack of Hounds, the Sham Doctor, the Old Woman, the Drunken Man, the Bells: All Inſtruments are performed by his natural Voice. To which is added an Eſſex Song by Mr. Clinch himſelf. To be ſeen this preſent Evening at 7 a Clock, at the Queen's-Arms Tavern on Ludgate-Hill. Price 1 s.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

A Poem intituled, An Ode to the Creator of the World, occaſioned by the Fragments of Orpheus. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakſpear's Head over againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

The Lord Mohun's Vindication: Printed for A. Dodd, at the Peacock without Temple-Bar. Price 2 d.

The compleat Court-keeper: Or, Land Steward's Aſſiſtant. Containing, Firſt, The Nature of Courts Leet, and Courts Baron; with a general Introduction to every thing incident to them according to Law and Cuſtom. Secondly, The manner of holding Court Leet, Court Baron and Courts of Survey, with the Charge to the Juries; and the Forms of Entring thoſe Courts in the Minute Books and in the Court Rolls, with Precedents of great Variety of Preſentments, Amerciaments, Threats, Copies of Court-Roll for Life, and in Fee; Grants, Surrenders, Admittances, Licences, Forfeitures, and all other Proceedings of that Nature. Thirdly, The manner of keeping the Court Baron for trying of Actions; the Nature and Kinds of Actions, and of Pleadings; and Precedents of Declarations and Pleadings, and of Proceſs, from the Precept or Original to the Diſtreſs or Execution, with Pleas and Recoveries concerning Copy-hold Lands. Fourthly, Precedents of Contracts, Conditions, Covenants, Leaſes for Life, Leaſes for Years, Aſſignments, Mortgages, Surrenders of ſuch Leaſes; and alſo of Copies of Court Roll in ſpecial Caſes, uſed by the Land Steward. Fifthly, The Power and Authority of the Lord, and of the Steward, and the Privilege of the Tenants, with Variety of Law Caſes and Reſolutions concerning Copyholders, and the whole Buſineſs of Court-keeping: And alſo Surveys of Manors, Rentals, Stewards Accounts, Fees, &c. By Giles Jacob, Gent. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Croſs Keys in Fleetſtreet, and Thomas Ward in the Inner Temple Lane.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley*, and *J. Tonſon*: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*.